

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: LOCKHEED CASE

REF: ROME 4936

1. THE ITALIAN PRESS IS CARRYING FURTHER STORIES ON THE LOCKHEED CASE IN WHICH AMERICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE MENTIONED AS HAVING IDENTIFIED ANTELOPE COBBLER, ALLEGEDLY LOCKHEED'S COVER NAME FOR THE SENIOR ITALIAN OFFICIAL INVOLVED, AS ALDO MORO. BELOW ARE THE RELEVANT PORTIONS OF THE ARTICLE IN "LA REPUBBLICA" (MARCH 16) WHICH IS THE FULLEST ACCOUNT. OTHER PAPERS HAVE PRINTED BRIEFER BUT SIMILAR STORIES. "IL MESSAGERO" (MARCH 16) IDENTIFIES STONE AS HAVING BEEN HEAD OF CIA IN ROME.

2. "LA REPUBBLICA'S" STORY IS AS FOLLOWS:

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BEGIN TEXT (ESSENTIAL PORTIONS):

THE HUNT CONDUCTED FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS BY ITALIAN JUSTICE OFFICIALS, THE COURT OF INQUIRY AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT TO IDENTIFY ANTELOPE COBBLER DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE REACHED DEFINITIVE CONCLUSIONS, JUDGING BY THE DOCUMENTS OF THE INQUEST.

QHO IS ANTELOPE COBBLER? THE ONLY INDICATION, WHICH COMES OUT OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES, REFERS TO ALDO MORO. THERE IS ONE WITNESS TO THIS THEORY. LUCA DAINELLI, EX-DIPLOMAT WHO LIVED FOR MANY YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES AND DURING THE LAST WAR MAINTAINED LIAISON BETWEEN THE AMERICAN ARMED FORCES AND ITALIAN COMMANDERS. A FAMILY FRIEND OF LEFEBVRE, HE WAS ASKED BY LEFEBVRE TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN THE LOCKHEED CASE TO FIND OUT FROM THE AMERICANS THE IDENTITY OF ANTELOPE COBBLER....

"I WAS APPROACHED--SO READ THE MINUTES OF INTERROGATION--BY THE PERSON CLOSEST TO AMBASSADOR VOLPE, TRIMARCO, WHO UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE GREATEST SECRECY INFORMED ME OF A MOST DELICATE FACT KNOWN ONLY TO THE AMBASSADOR: THE FORMER STAFF ASSISTANT TO VOLPE WAS WORKING IN AN OFFICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DOCUMENTS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE. GIVEN KISSINGER'S TRAIT OF NOT KEEPING HIS MISSION CHIEFS INFORMED ABOUT MATTERS CONCERNING COUNTRIES WHERE THEY WERE ACCREDITED, THIS YOUNG FSO WAS ACCUSTOMED TO SENDING IN A SEALED ENVELOPE DIRECTLY TO AMBASSADOR VOLPE DOCUMENTS CONCERNING ITALY. AMONG THESE WAS A COPY OF A MEMORANDUM IN WHICH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOWENSTEIN INFORMED SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER THAT THE ANTELOPE COBBLER OF THE LOCKHEED CASE WAS ALDO MORO."

DAINELLI CONTINUED HIS STORY, MAINTAINING THAT 15 DAYS BEFORE THE 1976 ELECTION HOWARD STONE, HAN AMERICAN OFFICIAL AND A CLOSE FRIEND AND A FREQUENT GUEST AT ISCHIA, ARRIVED IN ROME. HE HAD BEEN TRAVELING IN AN AIRPLANE WHERE HE HAD SAT NEXT TO LOWENSTEIN WHO, ASKED BY STONE TO SPECIFY THE IDENTITY OF ANTELOPE COBBLER, INDICATED TO STONE, WHOM HE KNEW, A PHOTOGRAPH OF MORO APPEARING IN AN ITALIAN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE.

AT THIS POINT DAINELLI DECLARED TO THE JUDGE THAT HE HAD INFORMED PRESIDENT LEONE WHO EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR. VOLPE SENT A LONG TELEGRAM TO KISSINGER ON THE SUBJECT. DAINELLI STATED: "IT RESULTED IN A MEETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN THE COURSE OF WHICH IT WAS DECIDED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HUSH UP THE MATTER. AT THIS MEETING BOTH LOWENSTEIN AND HOWARD STONE, WHO STILL RESIDES IN WASHINGTON,

WERE ASKED TO CONFIRM THE INFORMATION." THE WITNESS INFORMED THE JUDGE OF HAVING COMMUNICATED AT THE TIME THE NAME OF ALDO MORO AS THAT OF ANTELOPE COBBLER TO FEDERICO SENSI, DIPLOMATIC COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC...

ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT CONCERNS THE CURRENT ACTIVITY OF FEDERICO SENSI AND HOWARD STONE. AFTER THE EPISODE REFERRED TO BY DAINELLI REGARDING THE PRESUMED IDENTIFICATION OF ANTELOPE COBBLER, SENSI AND STONE WERE EMPLOYED BY MONTEDISON..END TEXTGARDNER

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